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LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

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From the Executive Director

Happy New Year from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP). I hope that each of you had an enjoyable Holiday Season. As we head into the Winter Season, it is important for us to be vigilant regarding emergency responses. Let's be sure that we keep our "Safety Hat" in place and be sure that "Everyone Goes Home".

I am pleased to provide you an update on our Aid to Localities (ATL) Program for both FY 06 where we have distributed 98.3% of the available funds and FY07 where we have distributed 75% of the funds. These figures constitute the highest figures for disbursement in the Agency's history. The credit goes to you for your timely submissions to our Agency for processing. Our goal is to make sure that there are no forfeitures of any ATL Funds.

We are pleased to report that over 72% of Virginia's Fire Departments are reporting data via the Virginia Fire Information Reporting System (VFIRS). Collectively, we can lower our fire losses, injuries, and deaths with your assistance. In early January 2007, our new Fire Research Analyst will commence examining the 2006 statistics to provide you better information on your individual fire problem. Better information can assist in long range planning for apparatus, stations, and personnel plus assist the Virginia Fire Departments in budget preparation and submissions.

The Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) approved \$ 270,482 in Training Mini-Grants and \$ 52,000 in VFIRS grants at the December 15, 2006 meeting. In addition one additional burn building project from Montgomery County was added to the list of 13 active projects and 3 repair projects. The VFSB continues to be very proactive in its support of Virginia's Fire and Emergency Services. If you see one of the Board members, I would encourage you to thank them for their leadership.

Pro-Board Certifications nationally registered stands at 30,041 as of January 1, 2007. VDFP continues to monitor the national credentialing program initiated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). We are very optimistic that our program meets and exceeds the criteria established for credentialing.

The VDFP Needs Assessment for 2006 is being processed at the printers as I draft this correspondence. We anticipate the 2006 Report being ready very soon for our legislators to review. Virginia's Fire Service needs are clearly identified from the data that you provided. Don Hansen, VDFP Division Chief 6 did an excellent job assembling the report/ data.

Our Spring Training Semester is being finalized and it appears to be very robust. Please be sure to visit our website www.vafire.com to check on classes offered in your area.

VDFP will be evaluated for its re-accreditation in January 2007 from the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (NBFSPQ). The agency is prepared for the 3 day visit by the Pro-Board.

Our On-line Bookstore was launched on January 1, 2007 where agencies can now use credit cards for purchases.

Please call or visit our division offices for your fire and emergency services training and education needs.

W.G. Shelton Jr., CEM
Executive Director

Shelton appointed Executive Director

Governor Timothy M. Kaine has appointed Willie G. "Billy" Shelton Jr. to serve as Executive Director of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP). The appointment was effective December 5.

Shelton has been employed by VDFP since September 9, 2000 and previously served as VDFP's Branch Chief for Training and Technical Services where he managed six functional program areas that included Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, the Virginia Fire Marshal Academy, Heavy Tactical Rescue, National Interagency Incident Management System, Logistics, and Quality Assurance program for Fire Service Training Record System.



In his new capacity Shelton will oversee an agency that employs 52 personnel across seven office locations in the state and administer an annual budget of over \$26 million. He is responsible for executive level supervision to agency staff, budgeting guidance, strategic planning, validation of programs, guidance on state preparedness issues, assistance with the coordination of statewide training and education programs, and agency response to large scale emergencies supporting local jurisdictions. He also manages VDFP's 22 certified fire service programs (Pro Board Certified) ensuring that applicable national consensus standards are met and accreditation levels are maintained.

Shelton brings many years of firefighting experience at both the professional and volunteer level to his new position. He served 30 years with the Fort Belvoir Fire Prevention and Protection Division, rising through the ranks from firefighter to Fire Chief. He has also been an active volunteer firefighter in his home of Stafford County for 41 years, serving as Fire Chief and President multiple times.

From May 1984 to the present, Shelton has served as a member of the Northern Virginia Community College Curriculum Advisory Committee Fire Science. From 1982 to 1998 he served as an Adjunct faculty member of Germanna Community College and Northern Virginia Community College, Fire Science curriculum. He also served from 1988 to 1998 as chairman of the U.S. Fire Administration Federal Fire Service Task Group and as vice chairman of the Federal Military Section International Association of Fire Chiefs.

Shelton is currently a graduate student of the University of Mary Washington enrolled in the Master of Business Administration program. He also graduated from Mary Washington College where he received a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree in Business Administration. Additionally, he holds three Associate in Applied Science degrees in Fire Administration, Fire Management and Fire Investigation from Northern Virginia Community College.

Korean delegation visits VDFP

A delegation of 18 local government officials from Gyeonggi Provincial Government of Korea visited the Commonwealth on December 11 to learn about fire services in Virginia. Included in the delegation were firefighters from Gyeonggi Province as well as provincial councilmembers.

During a fast paced several hours the visitors received an overview of the Virginia Department of Fire Program's operations, a tour of Henrico Fire Station 22 and briefing on Henrico County Division of Fire operations conducted by Division Chief Edwin Smith, and a briefing on high rise building safety and evacuation plans conducted by Captain Dave Pulliam of the City of Richmond Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

The visit to the Commonwealth of Virginia was the culmination of the group's mission to the United States, which had already included stops in New York and California.

Prior to their departure, members of the delegation commented very favorably on the level of organization and preparedness that they witnessed within the fire service community in Virginia.



Save the Date

Important dates in 2007 for Virginia's Fire Service

Virginia Fire Services Board meeting dates and locations

2/21	Executive Sub-Committee
2/22-23	Board Meetings
2/24	Governor's 2006 Awards
Location	Virginia Beach
4/11	Executive Sub-Committee
4/12-13	Board Meetings
Location	Charlottesville
5/31	Executive Sub-Committee
6/1-2	Board Meetings
Location	Richmond (VDFP Headquarters)
8/16	Executive Sub-Committee
8/17-18	Board Meetings
Location	Hampton
10/17	Executive Sub-Committee
10/18-19	Board Meetings
Location	Roanoke
12/12	Executive Sub-Committee
12/13-14	Board Meetings
Location	Augusta County

Additional meeting information can be found at www.vafire.com and on the Commonwealth Calendar. The point of contact for additional information is Brook Pittinger at 804/371-0220.

Grants and Local Aid

Entitlement Program

6/1 Aid to Localities Annual Packages mailed from VDFP

Grants Programs Application Deadlines

5/1 Conferences & Education Assistance
8/31 VFIRS Hardware Grant
9/30 Training Mini Grants

Additional information is available at www.vafire.com under the "Grants & Local Aid" link. The point of contact for additional information is Christine Lopilato at 804/371-0220.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (VFIRS) -
Introduction to NFIRS 5.0 (National) School
January 27, 2007
Mountain Empire Community College
Big Stone Gap, VA

February

Virginia Fire Services Board Meeting
February 21-24, 2007
Virginia Beach, VA

Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
2007 Mid-Atlantic Expo & Symposium
February 22-25, 2007
Virginia Beach, VA

**Winter Fire Safety and Carbon Monoxide
Radio PSAs available for download**

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs, in partnership with the State Fire Marshal's Office has recorded a variety of winter fire safety radio PSAs. The 30 second and 15 second spots cover topics such as fireplace safety, heating appliances and space heaters. A 30 second PSA on the dangers of carbon monoxide is also included.

To listen to the winter fire safety PSAs, visit **www.vafire.com**, click on the link for Fire Safety Education and then click on the link for Public Service Announcements. The PSAs are in mp3 format and are available for download.